

General Plan and Environmental Impact Report for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

I. DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) recommends the Commission adopt a resolution to approve the Preliminary General Plan/Final Environmental Impact Report (GP/FEIR) for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park (the Park). The approved GP/FEIR will replace and supersede the original (existing) Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan that was approved by the Commission on April 11, 1986. Separate resolutions to expand two existing cultural preserves, expand one existing natural preserve, and reduce the overall size of existing wilderness by adjusting wilderness boundaries are also submitted for adoption by the Commission.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park was acquired for the State Park System in 1933 and consists of more than 24,719 acres of forested mountains, grassy meadows, and chaparral-covered hills 40 miles east of San Diego. Anza-Borrego Desert State Park[®] lies to the east and shares a portion of its westernmost edge with Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

The park is known for its mountain peaks, most above 5,000 feet elevation, its high elevation meadows, excellent camping opportunities, expansive and popular trail network, and easily-accessible snow play areas, all removed from urban life yet only a short drive from the city. Over half of the park acreage is classified as wilderness. There are also currently four cultural preserves and one natural preserve located within the Park's boundaries.

In October 2003, the Cedar Fire burned over 98% of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, consuming most of the conifer forest and woodlands as well as causing extensive damage to several historic buildings and park facilities. Damage from the fire is still apparent. In response to the fire, a Reforestation Project was initiated in 2007 with the goal of reestablishing some of the lost forest coverage.

This General Plan is the first tier of a tiered General Plan/FEIR for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park which will guide the management and development of this state park for public use and resource protection for the next few decades. The Plan establishes goals and guidelines to assist in the day-to-day and long term management of the Park to ensure its natural and cultural resources are protected, while allowing for a variety of appropriate recreational opportunities. Projects proposed by this Plan will require follow-up CEQA compliance in the form of second tier evaluations of the potential impacts of specific projects.

III. PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTIONS

1. The Cuyamaca Rancho unit was acquired for the State Park System in February 1933.
2. On June 21, 1962, the Cuyamaca Rancho unit was classified as a state park.
3. On April 9, 1982, the Commission classified and named the Cuyamaca Mountains State Wilderness (two separate areas: West Mesa and East Mesa).
4. On March 31, 1983, the Commission classified and named four cultural preserves:
 - a. Ah-ha-kwe-ah-mac/Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve
 - b. Pilcha Cultural Preserve

- c. Cuish-Cuish Cultural Preserve
 - d. Kumeyaay Soapstone Cultural Preserve
5. On April 11, 1986, the Commission approved the original (existing) Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan.
 6. On November 9, 1990, the Commission classified and named the Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve.

IV. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

The General Plan process for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park started in October 2012 with a public workshop. Eighty-three people attended the first workshop. Two more public meetings were held in May 2013 and November 2013 (with over 60 in attendance), as well as eight stakeholder meetings including four primary stakeholder groups.

Other techniques used to involve the public included:

- Established and periodically updated a project webpage that documented the General Plan process and allowed posting of meeting and document availability notices, public and stakeholder meeting notes, maps and documents, team contact information, and other pertinent planning information.
- Received public comments at the meetings and workshops and had comment cards available at all the public meetings.
- Sent email “blasts” which notified all on the mailing list with notifications and updates to the webpage.
- Sent out over eight hundred email notices or letters for each public meeting, the Notice of Preparation, and the Notice of Completion (in addition to the email “blasts”).
- Conducted an on-line visitor survey to gauge visitor use, attitudes and desires for the Park. The results of which were used to inform General Plan issues and recommendations.

State Parks circulated the Preliminary GP/Draft EIR for a 45-day review period, beginning on August 21, 2014 and ending on October 6, 2014.

V. ISSUES AND ANALYSIS

Issues #1 through #7 are addressed in the General Plan. **Issues #8 and #9** are concerns primarily generated by user groups and individuals concerned with day-to-day operational issues and separate on-going District resource management actions, and are not specifically applicable to the General Plan but are likely to be brought up by members of the public during the Commission meeting:

ISSUE #1: Additional Public Use

The Park could provide more opportunities for outdoor recreation, especially considering its proximity to urban areas and the changing demographic of potential users of the Park.

Analysis: The Park offers many opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation. Camping in the mountains with family and friends, observing wildlife, hiking the mountain peaks, horseback riding and mountain biking on the Park’s trails, playing in the snow, and sightseeing are popular activities. But more opportunities could be made available to the public and to a wider demographic of visitor while still protecting the Park’s diversity of significant resources.

Recommendation: The General Plan offers goals for increasing public use of the Park by providing for additional day use and overnight facilities, developing non-peak-season program opportunities and facilities, encouraging organized events, increasing the potential for additional multi-use trails, and improving trail experiences. In addition, the General Plan encourages use of the Park by diverse and underrepresented visitors who typically have not used state parks, through enhanced activities and program offerings. The General Plan also prescribes a Roads and Trails Management Plan (RTMP) to determine best uses for specific trails (the RTMP is forthcoming). A few examples of General Plan guidelines that address additional public use include:

- Where appropriate, install cabins and/or other weather-resistant shelters for overnight use at the existing campgrounds to increase off-season use.
- Provide information and interpretive events at day-use parking lots and parking pull-outs along State Route 79 to encourage greater use of the Park by potential park users.
- Consider additional mountain bike riding opportunities such as benefit rides, night rides, and skills courses while remaining consistent with State Parks' mission, the Park's General Plan, and the protection of resources.

ISSUE #2: Need to Re-Assess Facilities due to Cedar Fire

The Cedar Fire extensively damaged the historic buildings and facilities built by the Civilian Conservation Corps ("CCC") at the former Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish (Boy Scout Camp), and gutted the historic Dyar House which contained a permanent visitor center, museum collection storage, and staff offices. The results of the Cedar Fire are one of the main reasons a General Plan update was needed for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

Analysis: The loss of these structures caused a need to reevaluate these areas, determining the most suitable locations for a park headquarters, visitor center, and other public use and park operations facilities throughout the Park.

Recommendation: The General Plan calls for reconstruction and adaptive reuse of such facilities and proposes appropriate, general locations for public and park operations facilities. A few examples of General Plan guidelines that address facilities include:

- Reconstruct and adapt the Dyar House, as well as its associated historic structures and landscape features, in conjunction with the District and Sector's need to administer the Park, provide visitor services, and as a focus for museum collections.
- Restore and adaptively reuse the Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish Area for structured public use while identifying and protecting the area's contributing historic resources and significant archaeological and natural resources.
- Move the existing maintenance supplies and materials stockpiled at the Stonewall Mine to a suitable, alternate location out of the Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve such as the area immediately south of Cedar Grove Volunteer Camp (south of the Cuyamaca Outdoor School), Mack Ranch, or other location that is out of preserves, primary public views, and sensitive resource areas.

ISSUE #3: Wilderness Boundary Conflicts

Since the two wilderness areas in the Park were established in 1982, several conflicts with their boundaries have been discovered, causing confusion with trail users, inconsistent enforcement of wilderness regulations, and an unintended loss of trail connectivity for mountain bikers. These inherent conflicts include existing multi-use trails and utility corridors in

lands classified as wilderness, as well as wilderness boundaries adjacent to fire roads, trails, and Park boundaries that have arbitrary set-backs/buffers and are not based on consistent or scientific standards.

Analysis: These conflicts have precipitated the need to establish consistent wilderness boundary standards and an adjustment of some wilderness boundaries to better reflect current management practices and visitor uses while protecting the wilderness experience.

Recommendation: State Parks recommends adoption of a Commission resolution to decrease the total size of existing Wilderness by 797 acres (approximately 6%) through the adjustment of Wilderness boundaries. Guidelines are presented in the General Plan that establish viable standards for wilderness boundaries, adjust wilderness boundaries to exclude utility corridors and existing multi-use trails, and make possible future multi-use trail connections (see attached *Cuyamaca Mountains State Wilderness Boundary Adjustments*)

ISSUE #4: Additional Protection of Archaeological Resources

The Park contains a high concentration of significant and sensitive Native American sites, some of which have incurred recent looting and vandalism.

Analysis: In some cases, the cultural preserves established to provide additional protections for these resources do not encompass the most significant and sensitive sites.

Recommendation: The General Plan increases the size of two of the four existing cultural preserves to provide additional protection. Commission resolutions to accomplish this are recommended for adoption:

- The Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve is proposed to be expanded from 430 acres to 1,780 acres.
- The Cuish Cuish (East Mesa) Cultural Preserve is proposed to be expanded from 500 acres to 1,533 acres.

In addition, the General Plan establishes new guidelines for preserving, protecting and interpreting archaeological resources at the Park. A few examples are shown below:

- Work with the representatives of the Kumeyaay, Kamia, and Kwaaymii peoples, incorporating historical accounts and ethnographic records to identify, record, and protect traditional cultural places including sites of special cultural and/or religious significance that are located with Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.
- Continue and expand the Colorado Desert District's archaeological site stewardship program whereby volunteers are trained to help protect archaeological sites through periodic visitation, recognition, and recordation of vandalism and other threats.

ISSUE #5: Additional Protection of Natural Resources

The Park contains many sensitive and rare plants such as the state endangered Cuyamaca Lake downingia, Parish's meadowfoam, and state-rare Cuyamaca larkspur, as well as significant stands of Jeffrey pine, coast live oak, and the endemic Cuyamaca cypress.

Analysis: Many of the habitats that contain these species are protected through the Park's designation as a State Park, and in some cases, through additional protections within a state Natural Preserve. However, not all of the sensitive and rare plant habitats are located within Natural Preserve lands and therefore are not protected to a level commensurate with their significance.

Recommendation: The General Plan increases the size of the existing Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve (from 683 acres to 1,030 acres) to expand protection of this sensitive and rare plant community. A Commission resolution to accomplish this is recommended for adoption. In addition, the General Plan provides new goals for managing wildfire events, preventing the spread of invasive exotic plant and animal species, promoting the survival and resiliency of the Sky Island Forest and oak woodlands, providing additional protection for meadows, grasslands, and Cuyamaca cypress as well as promoting biodiversity and protecting biocorridors. A few examples of General Plan guidelines that address natural resources include:

- Restore degraded meadows and grasslands with an emphasis on restoring physical processes such as the natural hydrology.
- Support non-native species eradication and control, with an emphasis on species that damage oak trees and their potential for recruitment such as feral pigs, goldspotted oak borer, and wild turkey.
- Restore and sustain connectivity between patches of the Sky Island Forest within Cuyamaca Rancho State Park to ensure these patches can provide a seed source for future natural regeneration of the landscape. A combined approach of active (e.g., reforestation, non-native species management) and passive management (e.g., natural regeneration) will hasten the regrowth of the post-Cedar Fire forest to minimize isolation effects by decreasing the duration of isolation.

ISSUE #6: Lack of Education and Interpretation

Due to limited budgets and staffing and inadequate or outdated facilities, interpretive and educational programs and offerings at the Park are insufficient. Therefore, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park misses important opportunities to connect its hundreds of thousands of visitors with its diverse history and resources.

Analysis: In particular, current interpretation of the Park's highly significant archaeological and historical resources, Native American history, role of the Civilian Conservation Corps, and Stonewall Mine/Cuyamaca City is insufficient to reflect their importance within the context of the Park and the region. In addition, with more than three million people living within a one hour drive of the Park, there is a great potential to expand education and outreach opportunities to the region's urban communities.

Recommendation: The General Plan provides new goals for improving the breadth and scope of educational and interpretive offerings; it establishes guidelines for connecting more visitors to the Park's significant natural, cultural, and historic resources, offering more programs to youth and under-served communities, and provides for better interpretation of Native American culture and values. A few examples of General Plan guidelines that address education and interpretation follow:

- Place new emphasis on reaching out to youth as a part of connecting with under-served groups and non-traditional park users.
- Create partnerships with Native American groups to provide education programs for the Park.
- Work with Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association (the Park's 501(c)3 non-profit cooperative association) to explore opportunities for fee-based, value-added interpretive and education services, such as seminars, workshops, van tours, and school/youth/family programs.

ISSUE #7: Compound (overlapping) Preserves and Wilderness

In some cases, the Park's natural preserves, cultural preserves, and wilderness sub-unit classifications are compounded (overlap each other):

- The Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve and Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/ Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve overlap by approximately **530 acres**.
- The Pilcha (West Mesa) Cultural Preserve and Cuyamaca Mountains State Wilderness overlap by about **750 acres**.
- The Cuish-Cuish (East Mesa) Cultural Preserve and Cuyamaca Mountains State Wilderness overlap by approximately **1,500 acres**.

The preserves and wilderness were originally classified this way by the Commission, and the General Plan proposes to keep (and in some cases expand) these overlapping sub-units.

Analysis: Compound sub units have the potential to cause conflicts in resource management when protecting one resource could potentially impact another resource. Some believe that with compound sub-units, management and staff do not have clear direction on which are the PRIMARY resources to protect. Others do not consider this an issue because, in practice, all resources are protected equally and potential impacts to "competing" resources are avoided or mitigated.

Recommendation: The General Plan calls for the following:

"Where compound sub-unit classifications occur in the Park, the area should be managed to protect ALL resources and values for which the sub-unit classifications were established, equally and without compromise. As park management actions occur that might produce potential conflicts between different resources or quality of visitor wilderness experiences, the Department should pursue solutions that best attempt to benefit and safeguard the full range of resource and use values within these overlapping land use zones.

Should any conflicts occur whereby protecting one resource or value would potentially result in significant adverse impacts to another, and a non-impacting and mutually beneficial course of action cannot be found, such project actions should not be undertaken without implementation of appropriate mitigations, treatments and/or conditions to reduce such adverse impacts."

ISSUE #8: Equestrian's perception that horseback riding and camping opportunities and facilities are being systematically taken away.

Analysis and Recommendations (*in parenthesis/italics*): This issue began with the removal of Los Caballos Equestrian Camp following the Cedar Fire in 2003 due to the exposure and discovery of sensitive Native American archeological sites within the campground. Other factors that equestrians point to are:

1. After more than 10 years, a replacement for Los Caballos has yet to be found.
(*The General Plan recommends working with equestrian groups, other stakeholders, and the general public to determine a suitable location for an equestrian camp and day-use staging area in the north part of the Park. The General Plan stops short of designating a specific location because if it is later deemed unsuitable, the Plan would become obsolete. In addition, a project of this magnitude would require a separate funding source and public involvement process, as well as additional analysis, resource studies, and envi-*

ronmental review).

2. The General Plan does not designate a specific location for a replacement camp.
(See #1 above).
3. A proposed equestrian camp at Merigan (south end of Park) was not built.
(The site was deemed unsuitable due to opposition from local community and high water table (restroom septic systems would not be feasible)).
4. "Loop A" at Green Valley was made available (and is in use) but is not entirely suitable for equestrian camping.
(The General Plan recommends improving the campground where possible, to level sites, increase turning radiuses and size/length of parking spurs to accommodate large trailers/rigs, and increasing shade and available water).
5. State Parks is allowing Los Vaqueros Group Horse Camp and some sites within the Green Valley Equestrian Campground to be reserved and used by non-equestrians. The Department has recently issued a District Directive stating that Los Vaqueros Group Horse Camp and the Green Valley Equestrian Campground provide preferred use status to equestrians. The sites will be managed using the same approach taken with ADA campsites.
6. Claim that the General Plan public input process has not been fair and open, and did not allow enough time for review of the General Plan.
(The Department has fully engaged equestrians and the public in the General Plan process. The 45-day public review period is standard. See IV, Public Involvement Process, above).
7. Claim that trails are being open to multi-use without going through the Road and Trail Change in Use process recently implemented by the State Parks.
(A Roads and Trails Management Plan is currently underway with Facilities Management Division which will involve trail user groups in the planning process, and will evaluate all trail use designations within the Park).

ISSUE #9: Concerns related to the Reforestation Project

(See attached *Issue Paper: Reforestation Project* for more information). The Reforestation Project is an on-going resource management project managed by the Colorado Desert District. The General Plan does not directly address this Project for the reasons noted below:

Analysis and Recommendation *(in parenthesis/italics)*: Two primary groups have voiced opposition to the project: the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (Kay Stewart and Frank Landis), and the Chaparral Institute (Richard Halsey, Escondido). The main concerns are their assertions that:

1. A project of this magnitude should be addressed in the General Plan and EIR.
2. The Project should have had better public involvement and notification.
(District position is that the project went through the required CEQA protocols and State Parks had legal grounds to conduct this project).
3. Native Chaparral is being unnecessarily removed to plant trees.
(Chaparral removal is necessary to promote seedling survival).
4. Project is causing soil erosion, stream sedimentation, and loss of native species and weed invasion in chaparral removal areas.
(Department has not confirmed evidence of this).

5. Department should not be dealing in carbon sequestration because it is considered commerce on public lands which is illegal.
(Department believes it has legal grounds to conduct project under the Proud Partner Sponsorship Program).
6. Project should not be implemented in areas of the park that have wilderness designation.
(Department position is that project is consistent with wilderness designation).
7. Concern that to fulfill carbon credit mandates and associated monetary commitment, the Department will have to expand project outside of proposed zones.
(Department has no plans to expand project outside of the identified boundary).
8. Questioning the means and methods of the project.
(District position is that there are disagreements in means and methods due to differences in the science. General Plan calls for an adaptive management approach so changes can be made to improve the success of the project through time).

The General Plan team met on two occasions with Kay Stewart and Frank Landis. The meetings resulted in changes to the General Plan goals and guidelines, addressing some of their comments and concerns. Some examples include:

- Recommend a two-year timeline to initiate any future reforestation action following a catastrophic wildfire.
- Update the Vegetation Management Plan at least every 10-15 years.
- Expand use of adaptive management.

VI. LEGAL ISSUES

There are no known legal issues relating to the Commission's approval of the General Plan/EIR for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park.

VII. FISCAL IMPACT

There is no immediate fiscal impact as a result of adoption of the General Plan. However, many facilities recommended in the Plan will require substantial funds to implement capital improvements. Additional revenues and concession opportunities in this park are considered to be possible in the foreseeable future.

VIII. ATTACHMENTS

- Issue Paper: Reforestation Project (3 pages)
- Cuyamaca Mountains State Wilderness Boundary Adjustments (3 pages)

ISSUE PAPER: Reforestation Project

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, Colorado Desert District

October 14, 2014

- **Reforestation** is the replanting of trees that have been depleted, usually due to logging or fire. Reforestation can be used to improve the quality of human life by absorbing pollution and dust from the air, rebuilding natural habitats and ecosystems, and mitigating global warming since forests facilitate bio-sequestration of atmospheric carbon dioxide.
- The **Reforestation Project** ("Project") at Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is an on-going Colorado Desert District resource management project, begun in 2007. It was initiated by the District in response to the 2003 Cedar Fire which burned over 90% of the park (24,600 acres out of 24,738 total park acreage). All plantings will be completed by 2020 while maintenance activities including prescribed burning, brush removal, and thinning will occur indefinitely as part of the District's Natural Resources On-going Maintenance Program.
- The goal of the Project is to restore pre-fire biodiversity and ecosystem functioning to protect the forest from future threats of catastrophic wildfire, disease, and invasive exotic species.
 - 5,500 acres is the total maximum potential area of forest and woodland reforestation (called the "Study Area").
 - 2,530 acres of reforestation is currently planned (called the "Project Area") which is a sub-set of the Study Area (10% of Park, 26% of total pre-fire forest and woodland acres).
 - 1,110 acres of Study Area is in the Wilderness, up to 500 acres of which are in the Project Area. An additional 59 acres of biomass removal are in Wilderness for an understory prescribed burn in surviving mature forest.
 - Prior to planting, site preparation is necessary, which includes clearing of existing native shrubs and grasses above ground through methods such as mastication (mechanical removal), chain saws, and hand tools.
 - Planting of pine, cedar and fir trees in dispersed patches to mimic natural recovery.
- The Project is funded through joint donations and purchasing of carbon credits by the national nonprofit conservation organization American Forests (ConocoPhillips settlement agreement), Poseidon Resources of Carlsbad, California (mitigation for desalination plant), and the Walt Disney Company.
- The Project was approved through the CEQA process:
 - Phase I was a pilot project in which 540 acres were planted (Notice of Exemption 2/5/09)
 - Phase II was an additional pilot project of 50 acres (Emergency Exemption 6/2/09)
 - Phase III is the remainder of the project (1,940 acres) and was included in the Park Vegetation Management Plan (Emergency Exemption 8/3/09)

- The Project includes a Biological Monitoring component which results in periodic alterations to the project methodology and implementation (i.e. adaptive management).
- The Project is facilitating research in fire recovery and restoration; many studies are already published in peer reviewed scientific journals about the results of the Project.
- Initial plantings favor Jeffrey Pine, but will decrease in future years to reach the following desired ratio:
 - 65% Jeffrey Pine
 - 15% Coulter Pine
 - 8% Sugar Pine
 - 5% Incense Cedar
 - 7% White Fir
- As of April 2014 approximately 1,240 acres (49% of goal) have been planted with approximately 380,000 seedlings. Biological monitoring conducted in 2011 and 2013 indicates average survival rates of approximately 70%, and as high as 93% in some areas. During 2015-2023, there will be 9 additional plantings. This schedule may be accelerated or slowed depending upon funding and other factors such as weather.
- The in-process Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan (separate from the Reforestation Project) recognizes the Project as an on-going resource management project administered by the Colorado Desert District. Further, the General Plan includes Goals and Guidelines for the management of resources in the event of future fires, promotion of biodiversity, and management of exotic species.
- Opposition to the project was voiced during public meetings and the Draft EIR comment period by: the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (Kay Stewart and Frank Landis), the Chaparral Institute (Richard Halsey, Escondido), and the Sierra Club San Diego Forest Committee (Cindy Buxton). The main comments received (*and Department response*) are as follows:
 - Project of this magnitude should be addressed in the General Plan and EIR. (*General Plan recognizes the Project as an on-going resource management project administered by the District, similar to other District-led resource management projects like invasive species removal and fire management*).
 - Project should have had better public involvement and notification (*District position is that project went through the required CEQA protocols and Department had legal grounds to conduct project*).
 - Native Chaparral is being unnecessarily removed to plant trees (*Chaparral removal is necessary to promote seedling survival*).

- Project is causing soil erosion, stream sedimentation, and loss of native species and weed invasion in chaparral removal areas. *(District has confirmed and is investigating how best to remediate this issue).*
- Department should not be dealing in carbon sequestration because it is considered commerce on public lands which is illegal *(Department believes it has legal grounds to conduct project under the Proud Partner Sponsorship Program).*
- Project should not be implemented in areas of the park that have wilderness designation. *(Department position is that project is consistent with wilderness designation, entry permit awarded Summer 2014).*
- Concern that to fulfill carbon credit mandates and associated monetary commitment, the Department will have to expand project outside of proposed zones *(Department has no plans to expand project outside of the identified boundary).*
- Questioning the means and methods of the project. *(District position is that there are disagreements in means and methods due to differences in the science).*

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Cuyamaca Mountains State Wilderness Boundary Adjustments Figure 15

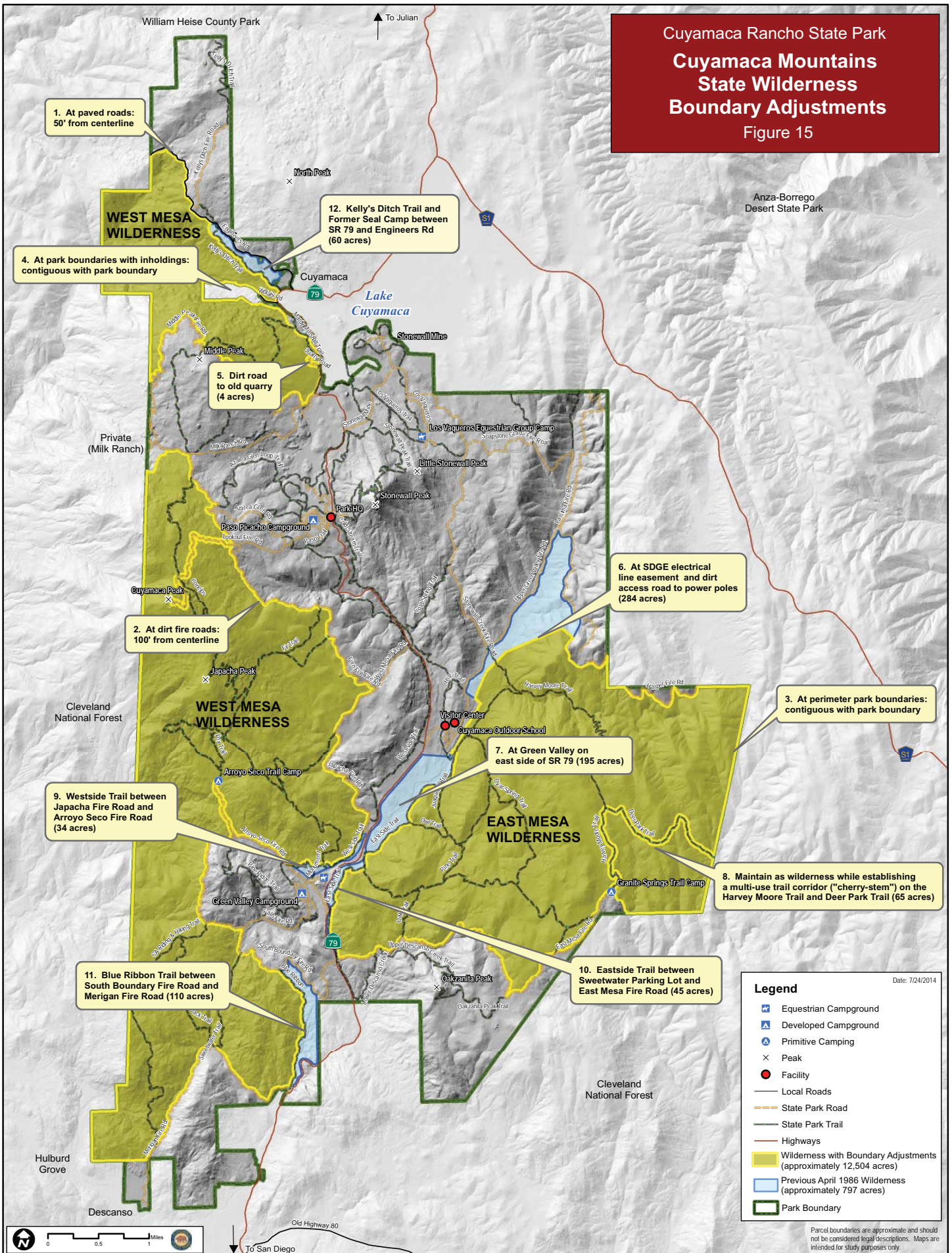


TABLE 2 -- CUYAMACA MOUNTAINS STATE WILDERNESS BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS

NOTE: Reference numbers on this Table correspond with numbered call-outs on **Figure 15 – Cuyamaca Mountains State Wilderness Boundary Adjustments map**.

Since the Cuyamaca Mountains State Wilderness was established in the park in 1982, several conflicts with the wilderness boundaries have been discovered which have caused some confusion for trail users, inconsistent enforcement of wilderness regulations, and an unintended loss of trail connectivity for mountain bikers. These conflicts include existing multi-use trails and utilities in wilderness, as well as wilderness boundaries adjacent to fire roads, trails, and park boundaries that are not based on any consistent standards. This has precipitated the need to establish consistent wilderness boundary standards and an adjustment of some wilderness boundaries to better reflect current management practices and visitor uses. Guidelines are presented herein to establish viable standards for wilderness boundaries, adjusts wilderness boundaries to remove utilities and existing multi-use trails, and make possible future multi-use trail connections.

Wilderness boundaries will be adjusted in the following areas and ways (with justification following). The total combined reduction in wilderness acreage after the following boundary adjustments is **797** acres:

1. **At paved roads (e.g., SR-79, Engineer’s Road):** 50’ from centerline of road (total of 100’).
 - Need consistent standard for boundary identification and GIS mapping.
 - Caltrans easement is already 40’ from centerline of road (total of 80’).
 - 10 extra feet from Caltrans easement would provide buffer from any Caltrans or State Park maintenance operations.
2. **At dirt roads (i.e. fire roads):** 100’ from centerline of road (total of 200’).
 - Need consistent standard for boundary identification and GIS mapping.
 - Would provide appropriate buffer for any needed road realignment, or road and brush maintenance adjacent to dirt road.
3. **At perimeter park boundaries:** Contiguous with park boundary.
 - Need consistent standard for boundary identification and GIS mapping (boundary has been inconsistently interpreted).
 - No buffer needed between wilderness boundary and Park boundary.
 - Contiguous wilderness and Park boundaries would avoid possible confusion and reduce the need for signage.
4. **At park boundaries with inholdings:** Contiguous with Park boundary.
 - Need consistent standard for boundary identification and GIS mapping.
 - No buffer needed between wilderness boundary and Park boundary.
 - Contiguous wilderness and park boundaries would avoid possible confusion and reduce the need for signage.
5. **At dirt road to old quarry (intersects with SR-79 and travels westward from Lake Cuyamaca):** Cherry stem 100’ from centerline of dirt road (total of 200’).
 - Consistent with buffer for dirt roads.
 - Park access needed for operations.

(cont’d. on next page)

TABLE 2 -- (cont'd)

- 6. At SDG&E electrical line easement and dirt access road to power poles:** Decommission wilderness from 100' from south side of SDG&E easement northward to Upper Green Valley Fire Road and La Cima Fire Road (reduction of 284 wilderness acres).

 - Access required by SDG&E for existing easements that predate wilderness.
 - North of SDG&E easement is an access road used by SDG&E to access power poles – this would also be decommissioned from wilderness.
 - Consistent with buffer for dirt roads.
- 7. At Green Valley on east side of SR-79 between the School Camp and Dyar House to the north, East Side Trail to the east, and Sweetwater Parking Lot to the south:** Decommission wilderness (reduction of 195 wilderness acres).

 - Existing SDG&E easement and power lines run through the area that predate wilderness.
 - Area adjacent to and visible from SR-79 (noise, visual intrusion).
- 8. Harvey Moore Trail and Deer Park Trail:** Maintain area as wilderness while establishing a multi-use trail corridor ("cherry-stem").

 - Establish a multi-use trail corridor ("cherry-stem") on the Harvey Moor Trail and Deer Park Trail between East Mesa Fire Road and the eastern Park boundary.
- 9. Westside Trail between Japacha Fire Road and Arroyo Seco Fire Road:** Adjust wilderness boundary from adjacent to SR-79 to 100' west of Westside Trail (reduction of approx. 34 wilderness acres).

 - Provides buffer between SR-79.
 - Provides for needed north-south multi-use trail connection.
 - Consistent with buffer for dirt roads.
- 10. Eastside Trail between Sweetwater Parking Lot and East Mesa Fire Road:** Adjust wilderness boundary from adjacent to SR-79 to 100' east of Eastside Trail (reduction of approx. 45 wilderness acres).

 - Provides buffer between SR-79.
 - Provides for needed north-south multi-use trail connection.
 - Consistent with buffer for dirt roads.
- 11. Blue Ribbon Trail between South Boundary Fire Road and Merigan Fire Road:** Adjust wilderness boundary from adjacent to park boundary to 100' west of Blue Ribbon Trail (reduction of approx. 110 wilderness acres).

 - Provides for needed north-south multi-use trail connection.
 - Gives cyclists an alternative to riding on SR-79.
 - Consistent with buffer for dirt roads.
- 12. Kelly's Ditch Trail and Former Seal Camp between SR 79 and Engineer's Road:** Adjust wilderness boundary from adjacent to Engineer's Road to west edge of Kelly's Ditch Trail and to 100' west of the Former Seal Camp which is adjacent to Engineer's Road (reduction of approx. 60 wilderness acres).

 - Provides for needed north-south multi-use trail connection.
 - Likely future Trans County Trail alignment (requires multi-use)
 - Gives cyclists an alternative to riding on Engineer's Road.
 - Keeps wilderness away from former developed area (Former Seal Camp).



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Adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in San Diego, California
November 14, 2014

**General Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report
for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park**

WHEREAS, the Director of California State Parks has presented to this Commission for approval the proposed General Plan and Environmental Impact Report ("Plan") for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park ("the Park"); and

WHEREAS, the Park is a significant place of scenic wildlands, campgrounds, trails, and recreation within San Diego's mountainous backcountry; and

WHEREAS, the Park's outstanding and diverse scenic, biological, and cultural resources warrant protection and restoration while providing a wide variety of recreational and educational opportunities to hundreds of thousands of visitors each year; and

WHEREAS, the Park contains several overlapping sub-unit classifications, such as wilderness, cultural preserves, and natural preserves, in order to provide equal recognition and protection of the significant resources which occupy the same geographic areas within the Park; and

WHEREAS, the Plan provides conceptual parameters and guidelines for the long-term management, development, operation, and public use and enjoyment of these resources; and

WHEREAS, the Plan shall replace and supersede the original Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan that was approved by the State Park and Recreation Commission on April 11, 1986; and

WHEREAS, the Plan includes the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as a part of a General Plan, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5002.2 and the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15166 (CEQA Guidelines), providing discussion of the potential impacts of future development and addressing all the requirements of an EIR; and

WHEREAS, the Plan is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and functions as a "tiered EIR" pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21093, covering general goals and guidelines of the Plan, and that the appropriate level of CEQA review will be conducted for each project relying on the Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That this Commission has reviewed and considered the information and analysis in the Plan prior to approving the Plan, and this Commission finds and certifies that the Plan reflects the independent judgment and analysis of this Commission and has been completed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act; and be it

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RESOLVED: In connection with its review of the Plan prior to approving the General Plan, this Commission independently finds that the environmental conclusions contained in the Environmental Analysis Section of the Plan are supported by facts therein and that each fact in support of the findings is true and is based on substantial evidence in the record and that mitigation measures or other changes or alterations have been incorporated into the Plan which will avoid or substantially lessen the potential impacts identified in the Plan; and be it

RESOLVED: The location and custodian of the Plan and other materials which constitute the record of proceeding on which the Commission's decision is based is: State Park and Recreation Commission, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, California 94296-0001, Phone 916/653-0524, Facsimile 916/653-4458; and be it

RESOLVED: The California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's General Plan and Environmental Impact Report prepared for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, dated August 2014; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That a Notice of Determination will be filed with the Office of Planning and Research within five days of this approval;

Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on November 14, 2014 at the Commission's duly-noticed public meeting at San Diego, California.

By: _____ Date: _____

Louis Nastro
Assistant to the Commission
For Lisa Ann L. Mangat, Acting Director
Secretary to the Commission



DRAFT - DRAFT - DRAFT - Resolution 10-2014 - DRAFT - DRAFT - DRAFT

Adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in San Diego, California
November 14, 2014

Cuish Cuish (East Mesa) Cultural Preserve Expansion Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

WHEREAS, the Director of California State Parks has presented to this Commission for approval the proposed General Plan and Environmental Impact Report ("Plan") for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park ("the Park"); and

WHEREAS, the units of the State Park System are classified by the State Park and Recreation Commission into a category specified in Public Resource Code Section 5019.50; and

WHEREAS, one of these classifications is Public Resource Code Section 5019.74, Cultural Preserve, which "...consists of distinct nonmarine areas of outstanding cultural interest established within the boundaries of other state park system units for the purpose of protecting such features as sites, buildings, or zones which represent significant places or events in the flow of human experience in California;" and

WHEREAS, the Cultural Preserve must be large enough to provide for the effective protection of the prime cultural resources from damaging influences, and to permit the effective management and interpretation of the resources; and

WHEREAS, the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan has proposed the expansion of the Cuish Cuish (East Mesa) Cultural Preserve from 500-acres to 1,533-acres in order to heighten the protection, recognition, and interpretation of a very distinct area of outstanding cultural interest, including the largest known Native American site within the Park;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Pursuant to Section 5019.50 of the Public Resource Code, that the California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby classifies the above portion of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park as a Cultural Preserve and incorporates it into the existing Cuish Cuish (East Mesa) Cultural Preserve, as delineated in the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan and further delineated in Attachment A of this resolution.

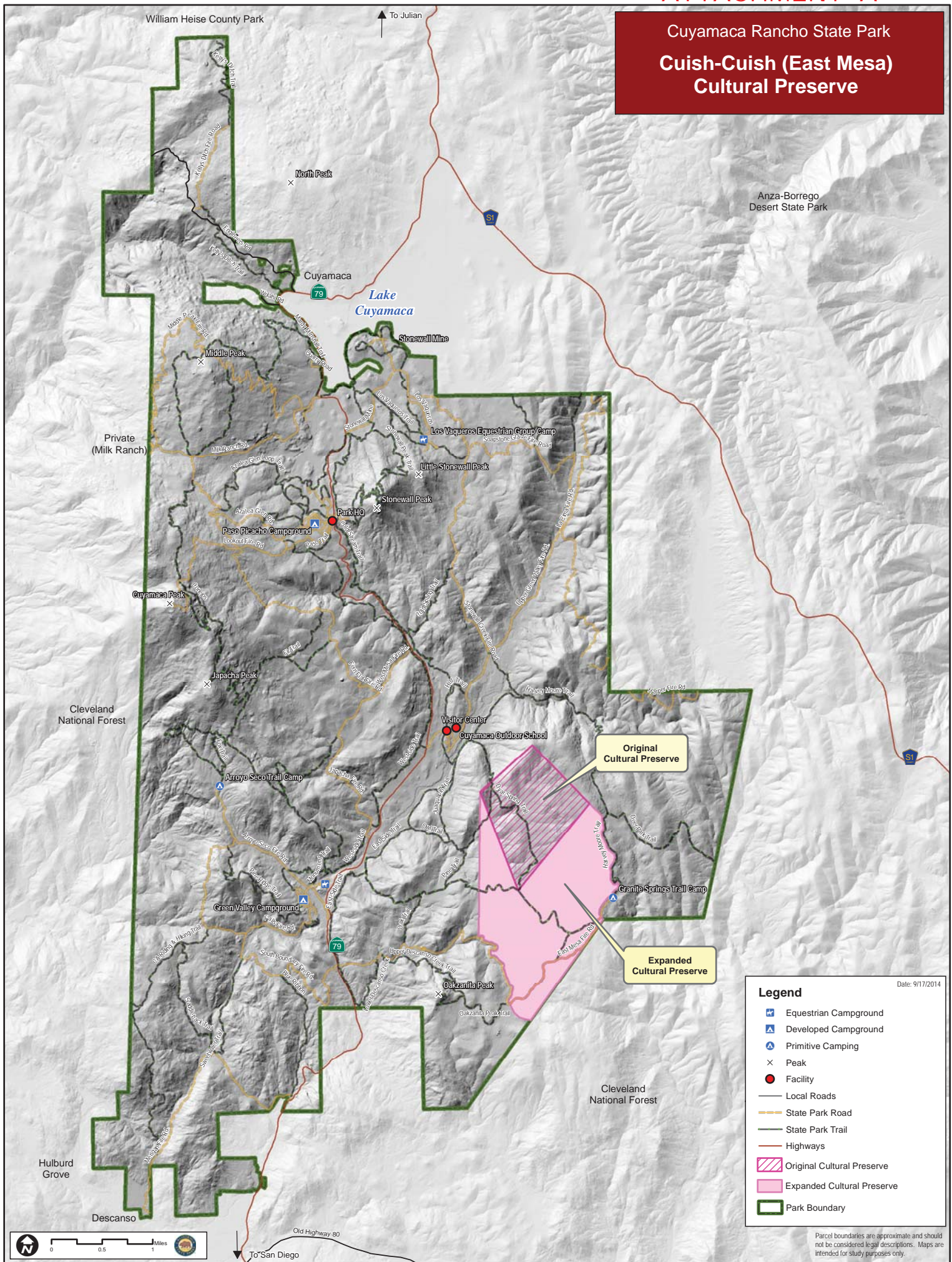
Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on November 14, 2014 at the Commission's duly-noticed public meeting at San Diego, California.

By: _____ Date: _____

Louis Nastro
Assistant to the Commission
For Lisa Ann L. Mangat, Acting Director
Secretary to the Commission

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

Cuish-Cuish (East Mesa) Cultural Preserve





DRAFT - DRAFT - DRAFT - Resolution 11-2014 - DRAFT - DRAFT - DRAFT

Adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in San Diego, California
November 14, 2014

**Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve Expansion
Cuyamaca Rancho State Park**

WHEREAS, the units of the State Park System are classified by the State Park and Recreation Commission into a category specified in Public Resource Code Section 5019.50; and

WHEREAS, one of these classifications is Public Resource Code Section 5019.50, Cultural Preserve, which "...consists of distinct nonmarine areas of outstanding cultural interest established within the boundaries of other state park system units for the purpose of protecting such features as sites, buildings, or zones which represent significant places or events in the flow of human experience in California;" and

WHEREAS, "the Cultural Preserve must be large enough to provide for the effective protection of the prime cultural resources from damaging influences, and to permit the effective management and interpretation of the resources..." and

WHEREAS, the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan has proposed the expansion of the Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve from 430-acres to 1,780-acres to heighten the protection, recognition, and interpretation of a very distinct area of outstanding cultural interest, including the highly significant Native American village site for which the mountains and Park were named;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Pursuant to Section 5019.50 of the Public Resource Code, that the California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby classifies the above portion of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park as a Cultural Preserve and incorporates it into the existing Ah-ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve, as delineated in the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan and further delineated in Attachment A of this resolution.

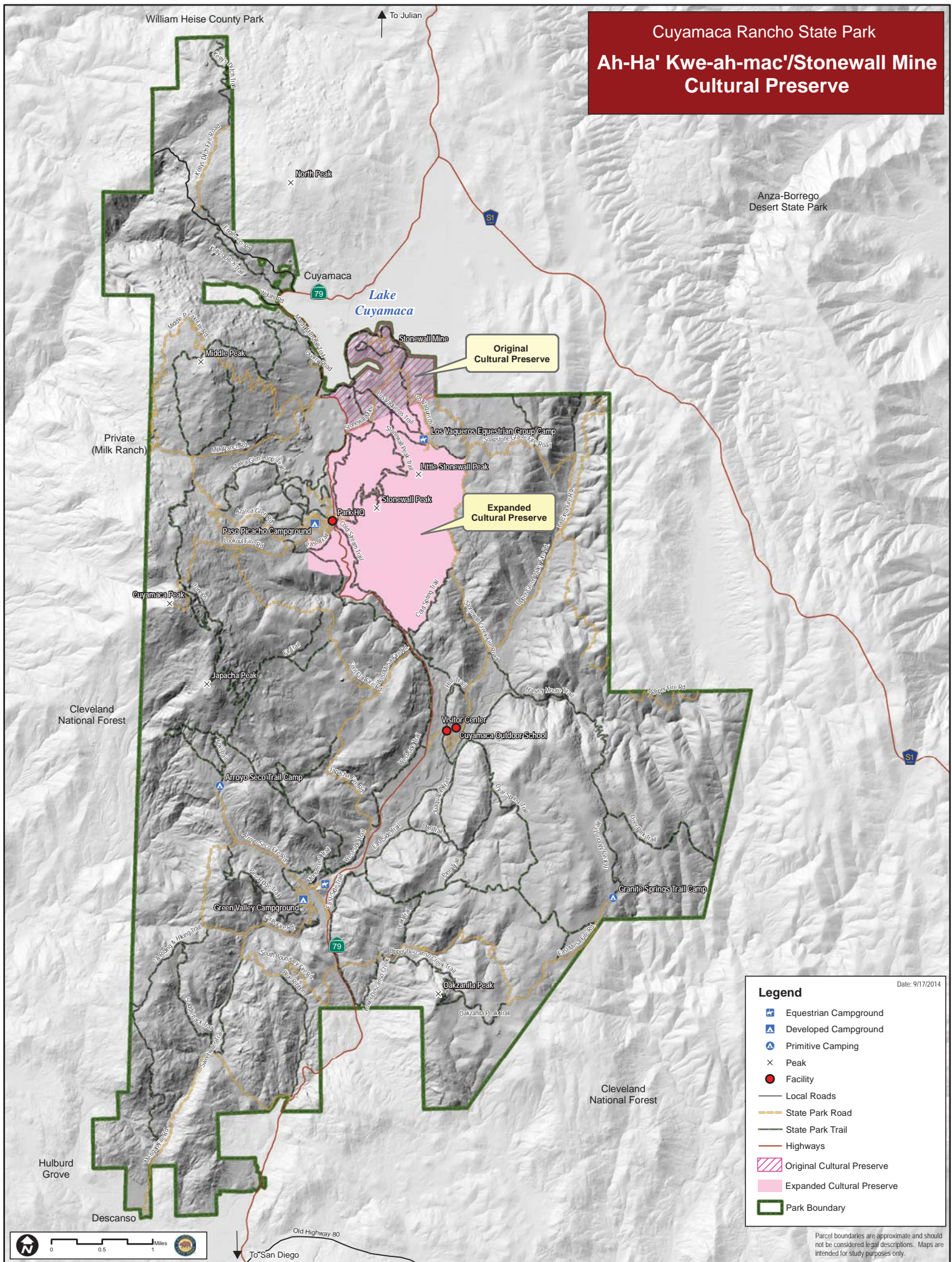
Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on November 14, 2014 at the Commission's duly-noticed public meeting at San Diego, California.

By: _____ Date: _____

Louis Nastro
Assistant to the Commission
For Lisa Ann L. Mangat, Acting Director
Secretary to the Commission

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

Ah-Ha' Kwe-ah-mac'/Stonewall Mine Cultural Preserve





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Adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in San Diego, California
November 14, 2014

Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve Expansion Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

WHEREAS, the Director of California State Parks has presented to this Commission for approval the proposed General Plan and Environmental Impact Report ("Plan") for Cuyamaca Rancho State Park ("the Park"); and

WHEREAS, the units of the State Park System are classified by the State Park and Recreation Commission into a category specified in Public Resources Code Section 5019.50; and

WHEREAS, one of these classifications is Public Resources Code Section 5019.71, Natural Preserve, which "...consists of distinct areas of outstanding natural or scientific significance established within the boundaries of other State Park System units;" and

WHEREAS, "the purpose of Natural Preserves shall be to preserve such features as rare or endangered plant and animal species and their supporting ecosystems, representative examples of plant or animal communities existing in California prior to the impact of Euro-American modifications, geological features illustrative of geological processes, significant fossil occurrences or geological features of cultural or economic interest, or topographic features illustrative of representative or unique biogeographical patterns;" and

WHEREAS, the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan has proposed the expansion of the existing Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve from 683-acres to 1,030-acres; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the expansion of the Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve is to heighten the protection, recognition, and interpretation of a vitally important area of outstanding natural resources, including the meadows, grasslands, and Sky Island Forest containing State Endangered and State Rare native plant species;

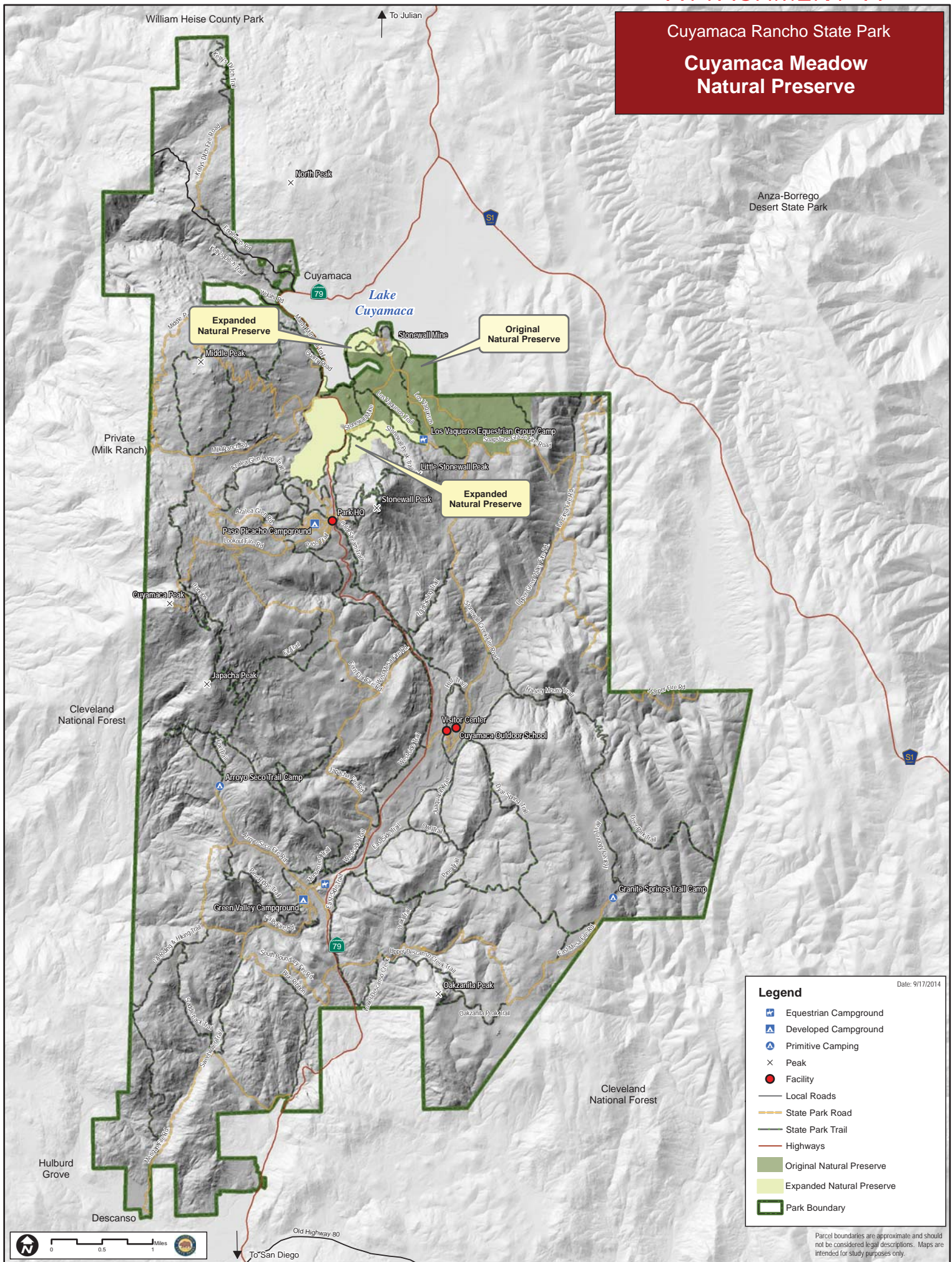
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Pursuant to Section 5019.50 of the Public Resource Code, that the California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby classifies the above portion of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park as a Natural Preserve and incorporates it into the existing Cuyamaca Meadow Natural Preserve, as delineated in the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan and further delineated in Attachment A of this resolution.

Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on November 14, 2014 at the Commission's duly-noticed public meeting at San Diego, California.

By: _____ Date: _____

Louis Nastro
Assistant to the Commission
For Lisa Ann L. Mangat, Acting Director
Secretary to the Commission

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park

Cuyamaca Meadow
Natural Preserve



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Adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in San Diego, California
November 14, 2014

**Wilderness Boundary Adjustments
Cuyamaca Mountains State Wilderness
Cuyamaca Rancho State Park**

WHEREAS, the units of the State Park System are classified by the State Park and Recreation Commission into a category specified in Public Resource Code Section 5019.50; and

WHEREAS, one of these classifications is Public Resource Code Section 5019.68, State Wilderness, which, "...in contrast with those areas where human works dominate the landscape, are recognized as areas where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by humans and where humans are visitors who do not remain;" and

WHEREAS, "A State Wilderness is further defined to mean an area of relatively undeveloped state-owned land which has retained its primeval character and influence or has been substantially restored to a near-natural appearance, without permanent improvements or human habitation, other than semi-improved campgrounds, or structures which existed at the time of classification of the area as a state wilderness...;" and

WHEREAS, the 13,301-acre Cuyamaca Mountains State Wilderness was established in 1982 to preserve the areas of the Park that contain these wilderness characteristics; and

WHEREAS, some lands within the Wilderness, however, do not fit the definition of State Wilderness such as areas containing existing utility corridors and multi-use trails; and

WHEREAS, existing Wilderness boundaries were drawn with inconsistent and arbitrary distances away from fire roads, trails, inholdings, and park boundaries causing unclear boundary identification, and

WHEREAS, some existing Wilderness boundaries prevent the potential for appropriate multi-use trail connections; and

WHEREAS, for this reason, the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan has proposed to decrease the total size of the existing Cuyamaca Mountains State Wilderness from 13,301-acres to 12,504-acres, by adjusting Wilderness boundaries, in order to re-establish these lands to the classification of "State Park," thereby allowing these utility corridors and multi-use trails, creating consistent wilderness boundaries, and providing for potential multi-use trail connections;

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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: Pursuant to Section 5019.50 of the Public Resource Code, that the California State Park and Recreation Commission hereby classifies the above portion of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park as a State Wilderness as delineated in the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park General Plan and further delineated in Attachment A of this resolution.

Attest: This Resolution was duly adopted by the California State Park and Recreation Commission on November 14, 2014 at the Commission's duly-noticed public meeting at San Diego, California.

By: _____ Date: _____

Louis Nastro
Assistant to the Commission
For Lisa Ann L. Mangat, Acting Director
Secretary to the Commission

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park
**Cuyamaca Mountains
 State Wilderness
 Boundary Adjustments**
 Figure 15

